

" " You ask me for advice as to the course you should take upon the vexed question of Separate Schools in your province. There is, it seems to me, but one course open to you. By the Manitoba Act the provisions of the British North America Act (section 93), respecting law passed for the protection of minorities in educational matters, are made applicable to Manitoba and cannot be changed, for by the Imperial Act confirming the establishment of the new provinces, (34 35 Vic., section 6) it is provided that it shall not be competent for the Parliament of Canada to alter the provisions of the Manitoba Act in so far as it relates to the Province of Manitoba. Obviously, therefore, the Separate School system of Manitoba is beyond the reach of the Legislature, or of the Dominion Parliament."

"It is true that the highest tribunal in the empire has put a different interpretation on the Manitoba Act, but with the merits of this question we are in nowise concerned here. My object is merely to show what were the views of him who had by far the greatest share in the framing of this piece of legislation, as to its scope and effect."

#### THE HON. WM. McDOUGALL.

Mr. McDougall, who took a most active part in connection with the union of Rupert's Land with Canada, said (1st Aug., 1892):

"We certainly intended that the Catholics of Manitoba, or whichever denomination might be in a minority, *should have the right to establish and maintain their own schools*. You see the words 'or practice' were inserted in the Manitoba Act, so that the difficulty which arose in New Brunswick, where Separate schools actually existed, but were not recognized by the law, should not be repeated in Manitoba. And then *the right of appeal to the Federal Parliament was given to make assurance doubly sure.*"

#### THE HON. G. W. ROSS.

In Montreal (19th Dec., 1895), the very capable Minister of Education for Ontario said:

"As the Manitoba Legislature had, beyond question, the right (and the Privy Council has so decided) to pass the School Act of 1890, I offer no observation with regard to it, except this, that I believe under the Act by which Manitoba entered the union, *it was understood by all the other Provinces that the minority, whether Protestant or Catholic, would have the right to establish denominational schools*. It was the merest mockery to empower the Dominion Government to interfere for the protection of denominational schools, unless it was assumed that such schools existed and that *in the changes incident to the growth of a new country they might need protection from possible interference some time in the future.*"

#### THE HON. SIR OLIVER MOWAT.

In a speech delivered in the Legislative Assembly (25th March, 1890), Sir Oliver said:

"In what spirit was the new constitution framed? It was a compromise all round, and an essential part of that compromise—so essential